Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 PM-05 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /087 W
----------055559 170656Z /10
R 170600Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6617
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1606

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, MARR, SO, SA
SUBJ: SAUDI MILITARY MISSION FINDS SNA ILL EQUIPPED

1. NEWLY ARRIVED SAUDI AMBASSADOR TAHA ALDEGHATHER HAS DISCREETLY LET IT BE KNOWN TO HIS WESTERN COLLEAGUES THAT A SAUDI MILITARY MISSION WHICH COMPLETED ITS WORK CIRCA JULY 13 FOUND THE SOMALI NATIONAL ARMY POORLY EQUIPPED AND DEFICIENT IN ALMOST ALL CATEGORIES OF WEAPONS, PARTICULARLY ANTI-AIRCRAFT. THE SAUDI HAS BEEN UNWILLING TO BE MUCH MORE SPECIFIC IN HIS COMMENTS AT LEAST AT THIS TIME. HE HAS, HOWEVER, ALLOWED TO ONE WESTERN AMBASSADOR THAT THE MILITARY MISSION CHIEF, OTHERWISE UNIDENTIFIED, WAS THE THIRD RANKING OFFICER IN THE SAUDI MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT. THE AMBASSADOR HAS ARGUED STRONGLY IN HIS PRELIMINARY CALLS THAT THE WEST IN ITS OWN INTEREST MUST PROVIDE MILITARY SUPPORT TO THE SOMALIS.

2. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR TAHA DOES NOT TAKE A SIMPLISTIC VIEW OF THE SITUATION IN THE HORN. HE APPEARS TO ARTICULATE SAUDI POLICY ACCURATELY, AND
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PROMISES TO BE AN ENERGETIC AND DYNAMIC DIPLOMAT HERE.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BIO-GRAPHIC INFORMATION AVAILABLE EITHER TO THE DEPARTMENT OR EMBASSY JIDDA ON AMBASSADOR TAHA.
VOUGHT

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Draft Date: 17 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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SAS ID: 1987183
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